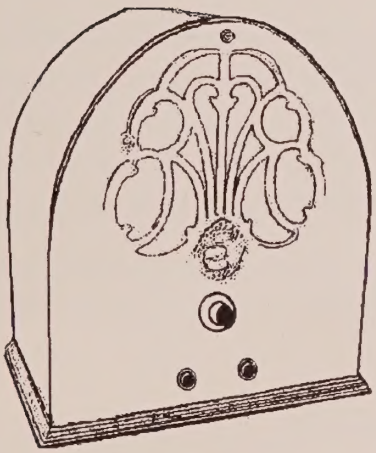
The Call Letter

May, 2002
Vol. 28 — No. 5

VINTAGE RADIO SALE

AND



SWAP MEET

9 AM - 2 PM

Saturday, May 11

Salvation Army Rose Center
N.E. 18th Ave. and Sandy Blvd.
Portland, Oregon

Presented by

The NW Vintage Radio Society

For information contact:
Cliff Tuttle, 503-666-7005

www.nwvrs.org

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage radio" and wireless equipment.

Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are $20.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

The *Call Letter* has been a monthly publication since 1974. It was originated with the founder, Bob Bilbie, and our first president, Harley Perkins. Through several editors and with the assistance of numerous society members, the *Call Letter* has continued to be a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of each month (except July and August) at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 10 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Guests are welcome at all Society meetings and functions (except board meetings).

Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

Society Officers for 2002:

President	Wendy Johnson-Kent	(503) 281-9335
Vice-President	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288
Board member at large	Charlie Kent	(503) 281-9335
Call Letter Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 284-5648
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135

The Society's address is:

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society
Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

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On the cover: This month's cover is the announcement flyer for the May Sale/Swap Meet. Don't miss it!

The Sale/Swap Meet is on May 11, 2002.

Visit our web site at http://nwvrs.org.

June Call Letter Deadline: May 27, 2002.

The *Call Letter* is the official publication of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society. Circulation is limited to the membership and guests of the Society. The Society is not responsible for the material contributed for publication, nor the quality, timeliness, or accuracy of the items offered for sale in the SWAP SHOP. By common agreement of the board of directors, the buyer assumes all responsibility for the satisfaction of any transaction.

From the Editor

by *Call Letter* Editor, Rick Walton

You are all aware by now that instead of a meeting in May we're having the Spring Sale/Swap Meet. I always look forward to our Swap Meets because it gives me a chance to visit with everybody, and I especially enjoy the auctions. I almost always come away with some treasure that fits my limited budget. I've added a number of nice pieces to my collection that way.

On the inside back cover you will notice a membership form. It isn't meant for those of you who are already members. But if you received this issue of the Call Letter as an introduction to the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, we hope you'll use that membership form to join up with us. Whether you are new to radio collecting and restoring, or you are a veteran, the NWVRS is a great way to make contact with fellow collectors.

In this month's issue we have the usual line-up of articles and features. Pay special attention to the Roster Corrections and add those names to your roster. Dick Karman continues his month-by-month look back at radio. The photo display looks like a Spring flower garden with all that color. The color printing, by the way, is by special arrangement and didn't put any strain on the treasury. "Voila" again shows that the collectors are out there, your editor included. Dave Wise brings us up-to-date on another of his restoration projects in "Play It Again, Sam." As is typical just before a Swap Meet, the "Swap Shop" is pretty bare. But be sure to take note of Mark Richardson's lead on a Scott 800B.

NWVRS 2002 Calendar of Events

May 11	Spring Swap Meet in lieu of regular meeting.
May 11	Hamfest, Stanwood-Camano ARC, Stanwood, WA.
June 8	Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
July 21	Concours d'Elegance antique auto show, Forest Grove.
July 19-21	Montana State ARRL Convention, Glacier/Waterton Hamfest Committee, East Glacier, MT. http://www.gwhamfest.org
August 2-4	Pacific Northwest DX Convention, Portland, OR. Willamette Valley DX Club http://www.wvdxc.org

September 14	Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
September 14	Hamfest, Radio Club of Tacoma, Graham, WA http://w7dk.org
October 12	Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
November 9	Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
December 14	Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

Roster Corrections & Updates

Many have returned to the fold! We also welcome new member Larry Ritthaler.

Geibel, William KD7SQ R
545 Missouri Ave. S.
Salem, OR 97302-5562
(503) 370-7245
Ham radio, 20's and 30's sets, crystal sets.
BanjoBill1@earthlink.net

Howard Richard K7DVK C
9999 S.E. Frenchacres Dr.
Portland, OR 97266-6956
(503) 775-6697
DHoward503@email.msn.com

Martinez, Chris R
12612 SW 56th Court
Portland, OR 97219
(503) 452-9191
chrism311@home.com

Meloy, Bill R
1846 SW 8th Drive
Gresham, OR 97080
(503) 667-8109
Prewar AC-DC BC band radios

Pouch, Jim R
10435 SW Grant Court
Tigard, OR 99223
(503) 692-0557

Ritthaler, Larry M. R
2860 SE Lake Rd.
Milwaukee, OR 97222-6851
(503) 654-1875
Collecting - OTR.
lmr18@attbi.com

Rutland, David R
24280 Cardwell Hill Dr.
Philomath, OR 97370-9739
(541) 929-4498
Radios of the 20's

NWVRS Meeting Minutes

President Wendy Johnson-Kent called the April 13, 2002 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. There were approximately 40 members and guests at the meeting today. Wendy mentioned that we must be very careful if we pick up a radio that is at our meeting for display. Some of the radios that are on display are very fragile and can be very valuable. Thanks for everyone's consideration. The minutes of the March meeting were approved as printed in the Call Letter. Many thanks to Tony Hauser for taking the meeting minutes for me at the March meeting. Ed Charman gave the Treasurer's report, and it was approved. Two guests attended our meeting today: Phil Cochlin and Larry Ritthaler. Both are planning to join our club; welcome Phil and Larry! Glen Bricker's wife recently fell and broke her arm. Don Copeland's wife is in the hospital for back surgery. We wish both ladies a speedy recovery.

Old Business

Library —John announced that we have a new book "Empire of the Air." It is a history of broadcast radio. He has also created a list of the key articles in all past Call Letters. Members gave John a round of applause for his excellent work.

Call Letter —Wendy congratulated Rick on the cover of the April Call Letter, and members gave Rick a round of applause.

New Business

Swap Meet —Our Spring Swap Meet will be on May 11, 2002. We need to distribute posters for our swap meet. We will buy two items for the raffle: one will be radio-related and one will be a general interest item. Setup for the swap meet will be on Friday from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Cliff asked for volunteers to help set up on Friday afternoon and to watch the parking lot on Saturday. Several members volunteered to help. There will also be a chance to appear on KATU TV. We still have swap tables available, if you would like a table please let Cliff know.

Dye Stain —Gordon still has some dye stain available. He needs some more orders because the dye stain must be ordered in one gallon quantities.

Jim Mason Memorial —Cliff proposed using some of the money for promoting our club more to the general public. Some of the possibilities are: activities to increase membership, radio advertising, radio exhibits in public areas, informational web site, and an informational telephone call-in line. Members discussed these ideas, and we will discuss them in future meetings.

Concours Car Show —Jerry Talbott and Tony Hauser need more people to participate in the Concours Car Show this year.

Technical Discussion

George Kirkwood gave a talk about Nikola Tesla. Members gave George a round of applause for his interesting discussion.

Leads And Needs

Dick Bixler needs a spark coil for a project.

Sonny Clutter has some Radiola 17 and Radiola 18 pilot light hoods for sale. His are better than those that are currently on the market.

Mike Parker has a Brunswick console available.

Program Topic

The program topic today was radios that have colors other than black, white, and brown. Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought. The following members won ribbons for their radios:

First place —Dick Bosch—Motorola 51X16 "X" grill radio

Second place —Dave Brown—Tesla Model 308U Talisman radio

Third place —Sonny Clutter—mid-50's coat-pocket tube portable radios

The program topic for the June meeting will be vintage television. Dave Wise gave a technical class on using triode tubes after the meeting.

Liles Garcia

Secretary

Photo Display

Photography by Rick Walton except as noted.

"Colored radios (except black, brown, or white)" were the feature at the April meeting and it looks like a spring flower show!

Motorola 51X16 Catalin — Dick Bosch

Tesla — Dave Brown

A Quartet of 4-tube Coat-pocket sets — Sonny Clutter

Canadian Westinghouse Plaskon — Charlie Kent

Custom Pearl-inlaid GE Clock Radio — Charlie Kent (photo courtesy Charlie Kent)

General Electric E-50 — Dave Brown

Arvin "Hopalong Cassidy" — Speed Feldschau

Australian Phillips — Jeff Martin

General Electric E-50 — Jerry Talbott

Stewart-Warner R1044A — Jerry Talbott

Packard Bell — Pat Kagi

Silvertone Duet — Rick Walton

Trio of GE Portables — Myron White

Remembering Radio (from both sides of the mic.)

By Dick Karman

Remembering Radio looks at radio's past from the performances and the performers to the inventors, advances, promoters and failures of the Golden Years of radio. Your reporter would welcome any feedback or corrections. Please address them to the Call Letter Editor so he can print them and everyone can enjoy them.

May Radio promoted one of the biggest international events of the time on May 20-21, 1927. When Charles Lindberg made the first one-person, nonstop transatlantic airplane flight, from New York to Paris, in his "Spirit of St. Louis" radio was there.

One of radio's questionable people was in the news in May of 1926. Radio evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson mysteriously disappears. The story is top on every radio news broadcast for days. Weeks later, she reappears, claiming to have been abducted and tortured. Later speculation was that she was actually in hiding with a lover, or pulling a publicity stunt, or both. Seems like we've been having trouble with broadcast evangelists ever since.

The month of May has a few radio show memories: On May 1st, 1931 singer Kate Smith begins her long-running radio program on CBS, while Jack Benny premiered on NBC Blue Network on May 2nd of 1932. Information Please (for many years associated with Clifton Fadiman) came to the Blue Network on the air on May 17, six years later. On May 31, 1943 "Archie" the comic strip was first broadcast on radio.

In more recent memory May played an important part. In May of 1960 Alan Freed, often known as the father of all Rock & Roll DJs, and eight others were the focus of the payola scandal. On a happier note, The Real Don Steele began his radio show at K-earth 101 in Los Angeles on May 3, 1965. For every beginning there is an end: Legendary newsman Lowell Thomas ended 46 years as a network reporter on May 14, 1976.

Radio Stations that began in May:

05/02/1928 - KPQ-AM in Wenatchee WA

05/04/1922 - KNX-AM in Los Angeles CA

05/09/1929 - WJW-AM in Cleveland Ohio

05/10/1922 - WHB-AM in Kansas City MO

Television had a few May memories too:

05/19/1922--U.S. inventor Charles Francis Jenkins makes first lab transmission of a television picture signal.

05/11/1928 --General Electric station WGY began first regularly scheduled television broadcasts, three days a weeks for two hours each in Schenectady, N.Y.

05/02/1944 - WABD (WNEW) TV channel 5 in NYC 1st broadcast

I'll see you in June!

Voilá

...new and recent finds by NVRS members

Compiled by Sonny Clutter

Ron Hershey:

- Grunow 622 Tele-dial tabletop set, BC/SW, made in 1937
- General Electric F-74 tabletop set with tuning eye,BC/SW , made in 1938.
- Kemper unknown model number (possibly model 80 Kompak), large Mission style tombstone, TRF, made circa 1930.
- Hallicrafters S-38D entry level communications receiver, made in 1955-57.
- Hallicrafters S-27 (military designation RBK-1) UHF AM/FM communications receiver.

Jeff Martin:

- At the last meeting I got a silvertone model 4765. It's a rather large wooden table model, with 3 bands.

David Wise:

- Motorola 5R1, from an auction in Newberg.
- I also got a Philco at a garage sale and an Admiral at last month's NWVRS parking lot sale.

Mark Richardson:

- Just acquired a Hallicrafters SX 25 communications receiver with matching PM 23 speaker.
- Acquired a Zenith 12S232 in very good condition a few months back. Came from the family that purchased it new.

Rick Walton:

- Granco Model 601 (anyone ever hear of it?) — FM-only
- Emerson R156 — midget tombstone in Ingraham cabinet.

Play It Again, Sam!

Compiled by Dave Brown

The column where club members can publish their restoration accomplishments!

Dave Wise Airline 5120? Midget Set

And you thought I was Mr. Transistor...

The label's gone, but this midget 5-tube brown bakelite set looks like Stein's picture of a 5120, which IIRC dates to around 1940.

Layout: 12SA7 12SK7 12SQ7 35L6 35Z5. There's a resistor in the filament string to drop the last 15V. (Surplus of 35L6s? Scarcity of 50L6s?) All the resistors are radial-lead body-end-dot style. This radio is inductively-tuned; there was no room for a cap. Instead, two powdered-iron cores ride on a loop of dial cord running the length of the chassis on the inside. The cores pass through coils. The coils can slide a little for trimming. This radio does not use a loop antenna. It has a terminal for a short trailing wire or possibly a foil patch on the missing back cover.

Here's what I did to it.

1. Cleaned out what seemed to be about a million bug eggs YECCH.

2. Sanded off some corrosion.

3. The old power cord was missing a lot of rubber insulation. I wrote it off and replaced it with a modern one.

4. Filter cap. Ever the optimist, I tested the original. Of course it was open. This was a three-section aluminum-can twist-lock type with a cardboard sheath. I got a similar (20-20-20 @ 250) unit from a friend, and put the original sheath over it so it looks like the Solar original.

By the time a signal is presented to the 2nd Detector, it may be several volts, and the wires involved radiate it enthusiastically. The single tuned circuit on the antenna tunes broadly enough that at the bottom of the dial some of it gets into the converter, where it goes straight through, amplified but not converted, to the IF, where it regenerates.

But I couldn't get the 1st IF transformer down to 455, even with the trimmers very tight. This was the can with the bugs, and I suspected organic corrosion. I removed the can again, and disassembled the compression mica trimmers. If you unsolder the wires and remove the trim screws, they just fall apart. Don't lose or damage the fragile mica sheets. Sure enough, the metal plates of the trimmers were corroded, giving them a rough surface which prevented the intimate area contact needed for maximum capacitance. I scraped off the corrosion, polished them lightly with a dremel felt wheel, put it all back together, and it easily reached 455.

5. Audio coupling cap from 1st plate to output grid. If you replace no other cap, do replace this one. The slightest leakage will cause the output tube to run too hot. It's easy to test, just put a VTVM across the grid resistor; should read 0. Mine read 5V, or about a 40% reduction in bias. I replaced the Solar .01/400 paper cap with two .01/500 ceramic dogbones in parallel. They usually skimp on this cap; increasing it gives a bit more bass.

6. Open speaker. When I got dead silence I knew something was open in the audio chain. I found that the speaker voice coil was open. This is an ordinary PM speaker except the frame is a custom shape to fit in the tiny cabinet, so I tried to save it. What I found was that corrosion had eaten away the flexible lead wires that go to the voice coil. They were a pretty blue-green. A touch caused them to crumble to dust. Fortunately, the voice coil wires ended at easily-reachable bumps on the cone, and I was able to scrape away the insulation with an x-acto knife and solder new flexible leads to them.

7. Open IF transformer. When I still got no signal, I found that the converter lacked plate voltage. You've all seen this style of transformer, square aluminum can with two trimmers and a nut on top. The fine wires usually break at the terminal, and that was the case here. I tinned it in aspirin flux and resoldered it. There were eggs in here too.

8. I got distorted sound on strong stations, clear sound on weak ones. I tuned a strong station and put a VTVM across the AGC filter resistor. Should be 0V, was 3. Frequently you can slide by with the original cap, but not this time. I tried for the first time to keep the original appearance. I heated the wires close to the cap, and pulled the ends off without losing much wax. I drilled a hole lengthwise through the original paper/foil winding, inserted an axial-lead .05/100 mylar cap with insulated leads, soldered the leads to the original end contacts (heat shortest time possible!) and shoved them back onto the old cap body. Gentle heating welded the ends back to the rest of the wax. It was valuable practice for the next radio.

9. I got squealing at the bottom of the band. When I used a signal generator to determine the current intermediate frequency setting, I found it was around 500kHz, well above the usual 455.

10. If a radio has adjustable coils, the usual alignment procedure is to set the coils at the bottom and the caps at the top. On this radio it diverged instead of converging. On a hunch, I inverted the procedure. I adjusted the caps at low frequency and the coils at high frequency. It worked! I got a nice two-point alignment, with sensitivity at maximum at 550 and 1450 and adequate elsewhere. The 12SA7 tests weak, but it still has enough gain to oscillate.

11. The dial backplate and pointer were rusty. I sanded and painted them with Krylon rattle can. Do several thin coats. Fortunately, the scale itself was pretty good. I merely washed it. Test it first! in an unimportant corner. Some use water-soluble paint.

12. The bakelite case had a long crack. I roughened the case interior with my dremel, jigged it to hold the edges together, and spread a bead of JB Weld. After it hardened, I found that I couldn't replace the chassis. I ground down the bead, leaving a thin layer to supplement whatever had seeped into the crack. It's visible if you look closely, but it's not noticeable in casual use.

13. One knob is wrong. Sometime I'll look for a match to the other. And I'd like to learn how to polish bakelite. This radio is dark brown, but I think there's a little marbling and I'd love to bring it out.

Swap Shop

FOR SALE: Thousands of tubes, hundreds of radio parts, panels, meters, surplus, etc. R5-D3 electronic surplus, Bob Lee, 9770 S.E. Stanley Ave., Milwaukie, OR 97222, (503) 513-0410

FOR SALE: Vintage Radio, Early Television and Hi-Fi.
Wanted: Tubes, Parts and whatever you might have related to early radio & TV. Visit my web-site at: http://www.radiolaguy.com or e-mail me at: sonny @radiolaguy.com
Thanks, Sonny Clutter, phone (360) 834-5741

WANTED: The INGRAHAM man wants radios with wood Ingraham cabinets. If you're not sure if it's an Ingraham, call Ed Cook in Vancouver, (360) 573-1439, or e-mail "hopopco1@attbi.com".

FOR SALE: A wide variety of radios at http://radiogalerykent.com. Charlie Kent

FOR SALE: **Philco 37-660 console. Good condition. $50. Tony Ranft 360-944-8489 or ranft@qwest.net

Leads and Needs

A friend where I work has a Scott 800B for sale. I believe the chassis chrome is in very good condition. Cabinet is in Very Good shape. Has a Thorens record changer. Contact me and I will put you in touch. Mark Richardson 360-837-3823 or e-mail mhr@pcez.com.

See the "Leads and Needs" section of the Meeting Minutes.

Radiolaguy's web page is full of lots of information on early radio, TV and also provides lots of links to other valuable info resources relating to the radio collecting hobby; it's not just a "for sale" site. Be sure and visit the site often. One of the services offered is pictures and information on the entire RCA "Radiola" line from 1921 to 1931 and my "show and tell" page.

Membership Form

If you'd like to join the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, simply fill out this membership form and return it with your dues to the Society Treasurer, Ed Charman, either in person at a Society Swap Meet or Meeting, or by mail at the Society's address listed inside the front cover.

Name

Address

City ***State or Province*** ***Zip or Postal Code*** ***Country***

Phone(s): ***E-mail:***

Collecting Interests (i.e. Catalin, Clock Radios, General)

This information is published in the Society's Membership Roster and distributed *only* to the membership of the Society. We need your mailing address at a minimum to be able to mail you the *Call Letter* each month. If you include your e-mail address, you will be invited to join an e-mail list whose membership is restricted to Society members.

NW Vintage Radio Society
P.O. Box 82379
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FIRST CLASS MAIL